GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2467
ANSWERED ON:17.03.2008
OUT OF TURN RELEASE OF SPECTRUM
Saradgi Shri Iqbal Ahmed

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Spectrum controversy is set to escalate further with the Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) has been requested to probe the out-of-turn release of spectrum to some telecom opertors;

(b) if so, whether the telecom watchdog, a Non-Governmental Organisation, has requested the CVC to conduct a comprehensive investigation into the free distribution of spectrum beyond the contracted quantum to private telecom operators;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government has considered the request of the NGO; and

(e) if so, the time by which a final decision in this regard is likely to be taken?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD)

(a) to (e) Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) had raised some queries on spectrum related issues and necessary clarification/information was provided to them.

The spectrum is allotted to the telecom service providers, as per the relevant provisions of license agreements, and eligibility criteria, on first cum first served basis, subject to availability of spectrum.

The service providers pay spectrum charges as a percentage/share of their Adjusted Gross Revenue (AGR), which increases with larger amount of spectrum with a service provider, as per orders in this regard.